

All Things New!

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-8

Introduction:

The battle is over. Every enemy has been conquered, judged and cast into eternal hell fire. All of the sufferings, trials and difficulties that have saturated the life of mankind and this fallen world have been removed...forever. Those who have stood fast and persevered in their faith; all who have remained faithful in Christ, have been victoriously raised from the dead and joined together as the church triumphant. The dominion and reign of Christ is fully realized, and all things are made new. The eternal plan of our sovereign God has reached its fulfillment.

This morning, we are brought to the beginning of the end of the story, where everything wrong is made right, and the creation that once longed for redemption has found its eternal rest. This is the completed fulfillment of the hope, longed for and described in Romans 8. [Read Romans 8:18-25]

I. All Things New (Rev. 21:1-8)

Vs. 1- The old heaven and earth have either been purified and completely renewed (like us) or wholly replaced. It required redemption, as it was subjected to futility and to the corruption of mankind, due to the fall of our first parents. [See 2 Peter 3:10-14]

"And there was no more sea." The sea reminds us of the place of unrest and turmoil, out of which the beast had come. All that disturbs; all that promotes unrest of any sort; all that destroys and harms, is forever removed. [See Rev. 4:6; 13:1; 15:2; Dan. 7:3; Ex.- the Red Sea]

Again, there is nothing wrong with water, rivers, oceans, seas, lakes...etc. It is the symbolic removal of unrest and turmoil, presented in a context of new found rest and peace.

Vs. 2- The New Jerusalem is here describing the Bride of Christ. As we continue to work through this chapter (especially next week), we will find that the glory, which describes the

New Jerusalem, speaks first of the glory of the Bride, the church, in her perfectly sanctified and glorious state. While this can also represent the dwelling place of the saints, we ought to recognize first that the illustration; the symbolism here, is describing first and foremost the glory, *not* so much of the place, but of the Bride herself. This is the once infected, corrupt, contaminated and defiled people of God, who now, in Christ, have been made a glorious Bride; something wonderful and beautiful to behold, by all in heaven. You see, brethren, so often, you will hear people (and I have done this as well), using this text to emphasize the place of our eternal dwelling, but the real emphasis is meant to be upon the glory that is revealed in us, the glory of the Bride of Christ. This is the glorious enigma presented by the imagery of the New Jerusalem, given us in this chapter. Certainly the place of dwelling identifies with the Bride, but the emphasis (keeping in mind that we are still dealing with apocalyptic language here---- symbols) is on the glory of the church triumphant. [See also Rom. 8:18 & 2 Cor. 4:16-18]. [More on this next time, Lord willing]

Vs. 3- Indeed, most precious words to the people of God. What we but taste of, in the present; that which is imperfect, at best, in the present, will then be perfected. We will have unhindered access to and fellowship with our living God. Our faith will become sight! We will walk with Christ, and dwell in His constant realized presence. There will be no more doubts or fears; there will be no more lacking the sense of His presence; there will be no more need of trials to sanctify and change us; there will be no more need of perseverance or having to be constantly watchful; the very things which Revelation calls us unto--steadfast perseverance, will no longer be needed; no, we will be with God in the most perfect and experiential sense. Indeed, that time is coming, brethren.

Vs. 4- And God; the very presence of God, will remove everything that has once pained us in this world. Every tear of sorrow and anguish will be wiped away, forever. There will be no more death; no more having to witness or suffer the reality of death. No one will be taken away from us in grief, nor will we be taken away in grief. There will be no more sorrow. Every form of depression, anxiety and sorrow will be forever relieved. We will not know sorrow there, for we will not know of sin there. We will be neither the objects or subjects of sin anymore. Where there is no sin and corruption, surely, there is no sorrow; for the one, necessarily breeds the other. There will be no more crying; no, nothing ever to weep about again. There will be no

more pain; emotional, physical, psychological; no, not so much as a cold or even the stubbing of a toe, let alone the cancers and other illnesses that fill this world.

"For, the former things have passed away." All things are new. The things experienced in this life, born out of the fall, will be things of the past, incapable of making their way into the new world. Such things belong to a world where sin, rebellion and godlessness exist, but such will never even enter the realm of possibility in glory. The former curse has been totally and forever lifted! For, God will be with His people! [*Highlight the end of persecution as well*]

Vs. 5- The One who sat on the throne; the Sovereign One, who John viewed, seated at the center of all things, speaks, and wholly affirms the assurance of the things here spoken of. "Behold, I make all things new." And if God makes all things new; if our sovereign Lord and Creator makes all things new, we can be certain, that not one iota of that newness will be penetrated by any form of evil or contaminant. The Righteous Judge and Divine of all the earth rights every wrong, and ushers the creation to its predestinated end.

And then He commands John to write these things down, because these words are "true and faithful." None of this has happened yet, but they present an assured hope of what must and will take place in God's perfect timing, and His people are to lay hold of them with the arms of faith, setting them up as the hope of their souls, so that they might withstand in the days of testing. [Compare with Rev. 1:5; 3:7, 3:14, 6:10, 15:3, 16:7, 19:2, 19:9, 19:11, 21:5, 22:6---"Let he who has ears, hear..."---these emphasize the faith element required]

Vs. 6-8- See Rev. 1:8, 11, 17; 2:8; 22:13 re: "The Alpha and the Omega..."

Relate the promises of vs. 6-7 to the promises given in the seven letters (Rev. 2-3)

(All who overcome and respond to this Letter---see also Rev. 22:1ff; Isa. 55)

Relate the warnings of vs. 7 to the warnings given in the seven letters (Rev. 2-3)

(All who compromise---with the beasts/whore---and fail to respond to this Letter)

Concluding Words

The charge to overcome, must hinge upon our understanding that "all things will be made new." This world is passing away. If our hearts are here; if our treasures are here, then we will compromise; we will not overcome. Are we living in the Kingdom of God or is this our true home?

Close with 1 John 2:15-17; 5:1-5

Amen!!!